



THE CARLSBAD GOVERNMENT RAP™

Volunteer's Notes

VOLUNTEER HANDS OUT CARLSBAD PENCILS. VOLUNTEER AND STUDENTS USE PENCILS TO CREATE A STEADY 4/4 BEAT. VOLUNTEER EXPLAINS WORDS AND CONCEPTS AS THEY ARISE. SEE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT SHEETS.

VERSE 1.

Carlsbad is a General Law City,
It'll all be explained in this rappin' little ditty.
We make and enforce our rules; it's great!
But we can't go against any laws of the State.
A Council and a Mayor and a Manager too,
And soon I'm gonna tell ya 'bout the jobs they do.
Carlsbad, yeah I'm glad; Mmh, I love livin' in Carlsbad!

(A general law city means that the city follows the laws of the state rather than making its own charter.)

(The Council, Mayor and Manager are the 3 parts of Carlsbad's government depicted on the City Seal triad.)

VERSE 2.

The Council is a party of five, no more,
And they got to get voted to the chamber floor.
Adjudicate and legislate and budget too,
That's your Council workin' hard for you.
They hire us a Manager and At'-tor-ney,
Who carry out directives for the village by the sea.
Carlsbad, yeah I'm glad; Mmh, I love livin' in Carlsbad!

(The Mayor and 4 Council members.
The Mayor is a Council member.)
(Adjudicate: settle disagreements
Legislate: make laws called ordinances
Budget: decide how city money is spent.)
(The City Manager and Attorney do what the City Council asks them to do.)

VERSE 3.

Every four years we gonna vote for a Mayor,
Servin' all the people and takin' good care.
Workin' with the Council of our fine ci-ty,
Fillin' boards and commissions and com-mit-tees.
Carlsbad, yeah I'm glad; Mmh, I love livin' in Carlsbad!

(Elections are held every four years.)

(The Mayor appoints citizens to serve on the various volunteer committees.)

VERSE 4.

A Manager serves as the chief AO,
Five departments and a lot to know.
Community Services, Development's key,
Administrative, Public Works and Safety.
City workers workin' hard a thousand strong,
Full-time and part-time all year long.
Carlsbad, yeah I'm glad; Mmh, I love livin' in Carlsbad!

(AO: Administrative Officer.)
(The Departments are service areas.
The City Manager oversees all staff and day-to-day operations.)

(Over 1,000 people work full-time or part-time for the City of Carlsbad).

VERSE 5.

Now there's one last thing that you need to know,
And it's real important so I'll say it slow.
What the Council say – what the Council do,
Has got to be done in front of me and you.
The Council's meetings are as public as can be
If ya can't make it down, they're on TV!
Carlsbad, yeah I'm glad; Mmh, I love livin' in Carlsbad!

(By law, the Council cannot make decisions in private. The meetings are held in front of the public and are also broadcast on television. This is the essence of democracy.)